

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03858 300003Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3917

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03858

FOR IOA, IBS, IPS

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN PLAN REACTION

1. THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PAPER, THE "NEW ZEALAND HERALD" (235,000) COMMENTED, AUGUST 29, UNDER THE HEADING "NEW PLAN FOR RHODESIA:"
2. "IF ANYTHING COULD BE CALCULATED TO DRAW THE SMALL, BELEAGUERED CAMP OF WHITE RHODESIANS EVEN CLOSER TOGETHER IN RESISTANCE TO EVENTUAL MAJORITY RULE, IT WOULD SURELY BE THE SUGGESTION THAT THE PRESENT WHITE-LED SECURITY FORCES BE DISBANDED.
3. "THEY WILL TAKE SOME PERSUADING THAT A UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, NO MATTER HOW BIG, COULD GIVE THEM COMPARABLE PROTECTION AND SECURITY..."
4. "THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES A DETAILED CONSTITUTION BASED ON UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE AND PROVISIONS FOR AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONTROL AND COMPOSITION OF SECURITY FORCES, MIGHT NOT BE ALL THAT UNREALISTIC, EVEN IF SOME OF THE AFRICAN REACTION TO IT SEEMS TO BE. BUT ITS RELEASE IS SINGULARLY ILL-TIMED, WITH THE RHODESIAN ELECTION ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY.

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5. "MR SMITH HOPES TO WIN THE ELECTION AND TO MAKE HIS OWN DEAL WITH MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS WITHIN RHODESIA UNDER A NEW CONSTITUTION. BUT UNLESS HE ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE OF HIS CHANGES OF ACHIEVING SUCH A PROGRAMME ARE SLIM. IN THIS SORT OF CONTEXT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, INSTEAD OF EASING THE SITUATION,

SEEMS ONLY TO HAVE COMPLICATED IT. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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